

## 9. Teaching the EU: Immigration and the European Union

Applicable course in new B.C. curriculum: Political Studies 11  
(also has application for Socials 11 and Social Justice 12)

DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this lesson plan is to introduce students to the increasing prevalence of restrictive migration policies in the EU, approaches to asylum and refugee policy, and the consequences of restrictive policies, such as human trafficking or unforeseen consequences from EU membership and national policy-making. More specifically, this lesson will look at how rising rates of xenophobia are increasing fears regarding immigration in certain countries and how this translates into stricter migration policies and the consequences this has for potential migrants, and specifically, asylum-seekers.

### Big Idea

- International political agreements require compromises between countries with a wide range of values and priorities.

### Curricular Competencies

- Explain how different ideologies and worldviews shape perspectives on the same political issue and information (political perspectives)
- Analyze interrelationships between objectives and intended or unintended results (interrelationships, objectives, and results)
- Recognize the influence of implicit and explicit ethical judgments in political decision making, and formulate positions on issues of ethics in politics (judgments in political ethics)

### Content

- scope and characteristics of the international system
- issues in global politics, such as security, conflict management, development, and sustainability



**Pre-reading, for students:**

[UN convention on refugees \(Geneva Convention and Protocol\)](#) and [New York Declaration](#)

[Canadian refugee policy](#)

[Immigration in Europe](#)

[EU common asylum policy](#)

**Procedure:**

Have students pre-read material above. In small groups, have them complete ‘Migration: Key Terms’ (based on documents above).

Discussion of differences regarding immigration systems and asylum policies: Canada and the EU.

In small groups, have students complete the scenario (‘Asylum Policies: Croatia and the EU’). Discuss and debrief.

**Migration Key Terms. In small groups, define the following terms:**

Migration: \_\_\_\_\_

Immigration: \_\_\_\_\_

Emigration: \_\_\_\_\_

Migrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Illegal (or undocumented) immigrant: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

IDP: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Refugee: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Asylum: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Non-refoulement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Migration and Asylum Key Terms – Answer Sheet

**Migration:** The movement of people from one place to another.

**Immigration:** Movement into a country for the purpose of settling there.

**Emigration:** Movement out of a country for the purpose of resettling elsewhere.

**Migrant:** A person who moves periodically from one region to another or from one country to another.

**Illegal (undocumented) immigrant:** an alien (non-citizen) who has entered a country without government permission or stayed beyond the termination date of a visa. This person is sometimes referred to as an undocumented immigrant.

**IDP:** Internally-displaced person. People forced to move or relocate within their own country due to violence, development projects, or natural disasters (but not poverty or unemployment. Not considered refugees under Geneva Convention.

**Refugee:** A person who is forced to leave his or her country because of some sort of disaster or political situation.

**Asylum:** a form of protection given by a state on its territory based on the principle of **nonrefoulement** and internationally or nationally recognized refugee rights. It is granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in his/her country of citizenship and or residence in particular for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

**Non-refoulement:** The principle that refugees cannot be forcibly repatriated to their country of origin.

## Asylum policies: Croatia and the EU

In 2015, the Canadian federal government committed to accepting 25,000 Syrian refugees (which could be up to 50,000 if all forms of refugee sponsorship are considered). This is a newer development for Canada, even though the refugee admittance process remains highly selective. Historically, Canada has accepted only their quota of UNHCR refugees, and have had few asylum-seekers compared to many other developed countries. For decades Canada has accepted many immigrants, but their 'point system' focused on economic migrants, not political refugees or asylum-seekers.

The countries of southern Europe, on the other hand, are on the front line of a refugee crisis. Some EU member states, such as Greece, Italy and Hungary, seem to be overwhelmed by hundreds of thousands of asylum-seekers arriving from Syria and other places. The European Union has attempted to manage the situation (the 'Dublin system'), yet individual EU member states are now attempting to assert their sovereign right to accept or deny immigrants – including those seeking asylum. Doing so challenges their commitments to the EU (via the Lisbon Treaty), as well as older commitments to the UN system of managing refugees (the 1951 Geneva Convention and 1967 Geneva Protocol).

Croatia is the newest member state, having acceded to the EU in 2013. Historically, more Croatians have left the country each year, than foreigners enter (especially during the 1990s, when war in the former Yugoslavia produced modest outflows of Croatian refugees). Currently, Croatia has an aging population, which is creating a demographic problem regarding labour and sufficient tax revenues for the country. However, Croatia can also look at its neighbours (Italy, Hungary) and observe the difficulties involved with trying to integrate hundreds of thousands of unexpected new arrivals.

What should Croatia do? What kind of immigration policies should Croatia advocate for in the European Union?

Things to keep in mind:

1. Would you have strict regulations as to immigrant qualifications and admission into the EU, perhaps similar to the point system in Canada?
2. Would immigrants and refugees be able to choose their country of destination, or should there be quotas for each country?
3. Would you prefer immigrants from certain countries over others?
4. What about illegal immigrants?
5. What about refugees? Would you recommend tougher standards for granting asylum to asylum seekers?
6. Would you have EU member states contribute more money to the EU, so that this money can be redistributed to those states that receive the highest number of immigrants and asylum seekers to help integrate the newcomers? This could help reduce xenophobia. What types of integration programs would be effective?

7. How could the EU focus on prevention of persecution and encouragement of development in third countries in order to reduce refugee numbers and stem illegal migration? What types of measures would be most effective?
8. Every action will have a consequence so try and predict what that would be. What would be the consequences for Croatia, for the EU, and for the migrants themselves?